

**International Labor Organization
International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC)**

Multi-bilateral Program of Technical Cooperation

**Government of the United States of America
Government of the Dominican Republic**

ANNEX 2 – Commercial Sexual Exploitation

<i>Program Title:</i>	Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
<i>Geographical Coverage:</i>	Boca Chica, Dominican Republic
<i>Project Language:</i>	English/Spanish
<i>Donor Contribution:</i>	US\$270,500 (US Department of Labor)
<i>Local Contribution:</i>	US\$130,000 in cash (Dominican Ministry of Labor)
<i>Executing Agency:</i>	ILO's International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor
<i>Implementing Agencies:</i>	Instituto de la Familia (IDEFA) Other NGO to be identified
<i>Collaborating Agencies:</i>	Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Tourism, Governing Body (Organismo Rector), Children's Council, Local Governments, NGOs and Community- Based Organizations, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
<i>Starting Date:</i>	October 2001
<i>Ending Date:</i>	September 2004
<i>Preparation Date:</i>	June-July 2001

1. Background and Justification

1.1. Commercial Sexual Exploitation in the Dominican Republic

Commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse against children and adolescents

hidden under the guise of a commercial activity. The victims are made into sexual objects by unscrupulous Dominican adults and foreign tourists, who ignore the physical and developmental damage they are inflicting on the children as they use them to further their own sexual pleasure or economic gain. This type of sexual violence causes a number of very serious problems in the children's self-esteem, personal and physical development (including high risk of contracting sexually-transmitted infections and diseases, pregnancy, drug addiction, and physical violence and abuse.) Even though these children are victims of sexual violence and exploitation, their families and communities usually treat them in a humiliating manner, and they are generally blamed for their situation. Commercial sexual exploitation happens when one or more adults lead or entice a person under 18 years of age to take part in sexual activities in exchange for a promised payment. The child can be induced to have sexual relations, to produce pornographic material or to perform in sex and pornographic shows.

Commercial sexual exploitation can occur in a number of different ways. Studies conducted in the Dominican Republic have revealed the prevalence of two forms of commercial sexual exploitation: in the first case, primarily girls and adolescents are victimized in brothels; in the second case, primarily boys are the victims of commercial sexual exploitation on the streets, in bars, and on beaches. In the Dominican Republic, commercial sexual exploitation is also linked to two specific phenomena: sex tourism and trafficking of adults and minors for use in sexual activities.

The present project aims at developing the national capacities for the prevention and eradication of this severe form of violence against children and adolescents and will contribute to the creation of an environment that does not tolerate the exploitation.

Various factors contribute to the commercial sexual exploitation of children, including the following:

- **Poverty:** About 32% of the families in the Dominican Republic are considered poor.
- **Abuse and violence:** Sexual abuse, widespread societal violence, and particularly family violence, which leaves children vulnerable and leads them to run away from home to look for "better opportunities"; often they are deceived by "customers-exploiters", pimps, and organized exploitation networks;
- **Demand:** Growing demand on the part of "customers-exploiters". Exploitation activities take place in brothels, on the streets, or at tourist sites in the country, as well as through child pornography obtained on the Internet or watched in pornographic films;
- **Cultural attitudes:** The existence of an authoritarian, chauvinistic, and abusive culture that does not call children's physical and sexual abuse into question and does little to protect children perpetuates this problem.
- **Sex tourism:** The expansion of tourism as an important sector of the national economy. Part of the tourist sector promotes sex tourism, which generates a "demand" for women, adolescents and children for prostitution. There are important economic interests connected to the tourist sector.

These factors foster an environment characterized by: growing, yet inadequately regulated and monitored, tourism; weak sanctions and control of exploiters by Dominican authorities;

institutional difficulties in fully enforcing laws; the absence of effective policies and programs for the protection of children at risk; the existence of organized networks with strong economic interests; and widespread social tolerance of commercial sexual exploitation.

Because of the different characteristics of the problem (illegality on the part of “customers-exploiters”, the more or less clandestine nature of such activities, and the social stigma faced by victims), exact data are not available on the number of sexually exploited children and adolescents. Nevertheless, a 1994 study, “Neo-Prostitution of Children in the Dominican Republic” (*“La Neoprostitución Infantil en República Dominicana”*)¹ estimated that 25,455 children and adolescents suffer from commercial sexual exploitation in the country. It is also estimated that 2 out of every 3 minors² suffering from this form of violence are girls or female adolescents. This represents 3% of the total female population between 6 and 18 years of age and 2% of the total male population between 6 and 18 years of age. Although no follow-up studies have been able to confirm these figures, the magnitude of the problem is clear. The majority of the child victims are Dominicans, but also other vulnerable children, such as poor Haitians living in the Dominican Republic, are at the risk of being abused in commercial sexual exploitation.

The Neoprostitution study suggests that 30% of the victims of exploitation (boys and girls) between 12 and 15 years of age do not know how to read or write. The study revealed that the highest incidence of illiteracy (42%) was suffered by the youngest boys in this age group. Moreover, the highest proportion of boys that did not know how to read or write (85%) was working in Boca Chica at the time of the study.

Most of the “customers” that abuse boys and girls through prostitution are men. Nevertheless, there are also female customers on the beaches.

The Neoprostitution study also mentioned that Dominican adults and foreign tourists are equally responsible for perpetrating these activities. According to this study, foreign tourists constitute 65% of the “customers-exploiters” in Puerto Plata and 88% in Boca Chica, which indicates that sex tourism is an especially serious problem in these zones. However, these numbers were not confirmed in the recent USDOL financed rapid assessment study carried out in 2001 by IPEC and PROFAMILIA. This new study does not pretend to be representative, but according to the 100 interviewed children in Santo Domingo and Puerto Plata, the majority of the clients are Dominicans, (71% of the girls' clients and 61% of the boys' clients). Even though many sex tourists visit the country, the important group of Dominican exploiters should not be underestimated.³ It is also important to note that sex tourism only can exist when the local population tolerates and facilitates this kind of activity and where children are found in a vulnerable situation, produced by poverty, violence and lack of care options.

Another important finding of the USDOL financed rapid assessment was that there are still more men than women who exploit children sexually. Asked about their last client, 97% of the girls stated that the last client was a man, while the clients of the boys were: 49% women, 47% men and 4% a couple (a man and a woman). The exploiters pay between US\$22 and US\$45 for a sexual encounter with the child.

Some of the preliminary results of the mentioned study indicate that many of the children subjected to sexual exploitation also suffer from many other forms of physical violence, abuse of power, and negligence on the part of their families and society in general. The ages of the 100 children interviewed for this study in Puerto Plata and Santo Domingo, in the period from April

¹ Emmanuel Silvestre, Jaime Rijo, Huberto Bogart "La Neo-prostitución Infantil en República Dominicana" ("Neo- Prostitution of Children in the Dominican Republic"), ONAPLAN - UNICEF, 1994.

² A minor is considered to be a person under the age of 18.

³ Source: Presentation of preliminary results by Leopoldina Cairo, PROFAMILIA in Regional Seminar for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, San José, August 22-24, 2001.

to August 2001, were the following: 6% of the interviewed children were between 10-12 years old, 24% were between 13-15 years old and 70% were 16-17 years old. 37% of the children interviewed in Santo Domingo and 52% of the children interviewed in Puerto Plata have originally lived in other parts of the country. About 30% are illiterate with 61% of the boys and 86% of the girls not attending school. Close to 56% of the girls are mothers. One third of the interviewed children consume alcohol every day and 10% of the girls have consumed cocaine at least one time in their lives.

The findings of the study also suggest a notable absence of national policies, programs, and actions aimed at providing this particular group of children with the attention and care they need. Likewise, the information collected indicates that public institutions are far from adequately following up on accusations. Judicial investigations of cases of identified exploiters lack the necessary financial resources and qualified human resources to make them effective.

The Response – Actions to stop the exploitation of children

Despite the difficulties related to this situation, some important basic advances in general child protection and in particular against this form of violence and exploitation can already be seen in the country.

Legislation. The Dominican Republic ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991 and ILO Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labor in May 2000. Ratification of these instruments clearly establishes the Dominican Republic's formal commitment to protect children against the worst forms of child labor, including commercial sexual exploitation. In terms of national legislation, "Law 14-94", the Code for the Protection of Children and Adolescents, was ratified in 1994. It establishes the institutional and procedural foundation for the complete protection of children and adolescents under 18 years of age. Another advance in national legislation aimed at ending violence and the sexual exploitation of minors is "Law 24-97 against Family Violence", which was promulgated on January 27, 1997.

Policy development. The "National Action Plan to Combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents" was prepared in January 2000; it was decided that the Governing Body (Organismo Rector) would be responsible for implementing the National Action Plan. This Plan has three components: a) prevention, b) intervention, and c) judicial-police control. Some of the high priority geographical areas for intervention include Boca Chica, Puerto Plata, Santo Domingo, Samaná, and Higuey. So far the effective execution of the Plan has been impeded by limited economic resources and by the insufficient promotion of a specific policy to this end.

Since August 2000, the new Dominican political authorities have aimed at more efficiently promoting the human rights of children and adolescents. They started the process of organizing and defining priorities so that implementation of the System for the Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents could move forward. Under the leadership of the Child Protection Council (CONANI) and the Governing Body (Organismo Rector), and with the support of UNICEF, the preparation of a National Plan for the Promotion of Children's and Adolescents' Rights has advanced. A National Workshop took place in February 2001, in order to define the highest priorities. It was decided that strategies for promoting children's rights should be organized by age groups (0-5 years of age, 6-14 years, 15-18 years). One of the identified priority areas was the fight against commercial sexual exploitation, in particular of adolescents.

In March 2001, a workshop organized by the Ministry of Labor, UNICEF, and ILO/IPEC took place in which Dominican authorities once again confirmed their commitment to the elimination of the problem. The objective of the workshop was to discuss strategies for eliminating the problem and for advancing a policy aimed at preventing and giving needed attention to the problem.

Social protection. Over the past few years, other important actions have been implemented, especially by civil society organizations; these actions have included two pilot projects in Boca Chica and Puerto Plata, which have benefited 100 children. Lessons learned from these projects have shown the importance of establishing inter-institutional coordination in order to achieve sustainable activities. Moreover, this experience showed that demand could be stopped only by effectively sanctioning exploiters.

These advances constitute an important basis for the present project because of the accomplishments observed and the lessons learned. It is encouraging that a juridical and institutional foundation now exists and high-level political decisions have been made to ensure that the System for the Protection of Children and Adolescents becomes a reality.

The challenges remain large because economic interests, such as: the expansion of the tourist sector, exploiter networks with strong family and community connections, and a culture that tolerates exploitation, reinforce the problem. The following ***lessons have been learned*** from past experiences of project designs and from formal and informal, participatory evaluations:

- ***Recognition of the problem*** by Dominican authorities is fundamental so that the problem may be dealt with in a sustainable manner. The Dominican government has clearly expressed a will to stop the commercial sexual exploitation of children, but this commitment still has to be translated into action, particularly in the enforcement of legislation, provision of social protection and rehabilitation services to children, and coordination with key sectors (tourism, social sector).
- Efforts cannot be focused only on the “rehabilitation” of victims, since the victims would not have the capacity to stop the violence. Therefore, high priority activities should include the ***establishment of a safe environment***, free of violence against children, within the family as well as on the street.
- Responsible ***government institutions need to be strengthened*** through training activities, so that they can effectively arrest “customers”, pimps, and other intermediaries participating in organized networks. In Boca Chica, for example, many of the children are not from the community, but go there because they are attracted by the “demand” created by Dominican abusers and tourists.
- An integral, ***multi-faceted solution*** is required in order to eliminate the problem in a sustainable manner. This includes legislative/juridical changes, strengthening public institutions responsible for sanctions and for applying punitive legislation, and strengthening institutions responsible for protecting children and preventing the problem.
- ***Prevention is more cost-effective*** in the medium- and long-term than rehabilitation services for exploited children. Children should be protected against sexual exploitation, but considerable human and economic resources are needed to rehabilitate them. Therefore, it is important to identify and provide support to children that are at a high risk of falling victim to sexual exploitation.
- ***Inter-institutional coordination is essential*** to eliminate the problem, since no single institution can effectively eliminate or prevent the problem on its own.
- A ***clear policy*** needs to be established to provide the necessary attention to the “cases” of sexual exploitation, since institution officials sometimes are not sufficiently aware of their responsibilities and specific duties. Training of these officials, however, is most effective when their responsibilities have been clearly defined.

- ***Children's human rights should always be respected.*** For example, the child's right not to work before 14 years of age (education should be their only option) or their right to live with a family (children should not be institutionalized, except in extreme cases) is not being respected when involved in this activity.
- ***NGOs*** can try out new methods of providing proper attention to victims, but nevertheless these new ***methods should be incorporated in public policies to ensure sustainable actions*** and uniform nationwide coverage.
- ***Strengthening government institutions*** is essential for the elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation problem, since NGOs and international agencies do not have the authority or capacity to intervene in cases requiring police action.

2. Target groups and Partners

2.1 Direct beneficiaries

Given the fact that the project focuses on developing institutional capacities for the prevention of and attention towards the problem, the number of direct beneficiaries will be relatively few.

It is estimated that the action program will reach 200 sexually exploited children as well as at least 200 children that are siblings of the victims of sexual exploitation in Boca Chica.

These children are estimated to be distributed in the following age groups:

Between 5 and 14 years of age: 100 victims of commercial sexual exploitation will be withdrawn from commercial sexual exploitation,

200 children, who are siblings of victims of sexual exploitation, will be prevented from engaging in commercial sexual exploitation.

Between 15 and 17 years of age: 100 victims of commercial sexual exploitation will be withdrawn from commercial sexual exploitation.

Families: 200 families will be provided with services, in order to create a non-violent family environment, according to the needs of the child victims. Families will receive legal aid, counseling, vocational training, social assistance obtained through the Poverty Reduction Plan, or micro-credit loans. The help needed will be defined in the initial assessment carried out of each child and his/her family by the implementing NGO.

2.2 Indirect beneficiaries.

The indirect beneficiaries will include every child living in the geographical area under the influence of the strengthened institutions, which will now be better capable of enforcing policies and existing legislation.

Project interventions will indirectly benefit at least 25,000 persons, who will be informed about the problem of commercial sexual exploitation and their awareness will be raised through the social mobilization and awareness raising activities of this project.

2.3 Direct Recipients

In regards to direct project recipients, the capacity of institutions mentioned below in the strategy, will be strengthened and at least 300 public officials will be trained in their responsibilities related to the prevention and elimination of commercial sexual exploitation.

3. Program Approach and Strategy

3.1 Narrative

Because the problem of commercial sexual exploitation is extremely complex, it is necessary to help the country to establish a multi-faceted solution to effect its elimination. The present action program will have three main components: 1. institutional strengthening, 2. awareness raising and social mobilization, and 3. creation of model for withdrawal and protection of child victims.

Component 1: Institutional strengthening

In spite of advances already made and described above, the Dominican State needs technical and financial assistance to revise the National Action Plan to Combat the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, to put it into practice, and to ensure the necessary inter-institutional coordination. The action program will provide support so that coordination and training workshops can be offered. The program will also support meetings with politicians and decision makers to lobby for the elimination of commercial sexual exploitation, even though it might be against other interests, such as those of the tourist sector. Technical assistance will also be provided so that institutional responsibilities and the specific duties of officials can be clearly established. Likewise, officials from key sectors will be trained so that they will be duly informed of their responsibilities in arresting and processing exploiters without delay as well as in protecting children and in giving victims back their rights.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is many times an organized crime involving a network of economic beneficiaries (taxi drivers, hotel owners, travel agencies, etc.). The police and other law enforcement institutions lack minimum equipment (such as video cameras) that could allow them to obtain evidence in cases of commercial sexual exploitation. The project will promote the inclusion of this type of equipment in the regular budget of public institutions responsible for this issue. In the meantime, the project will encourage the police and others involved with investigations to leverage resources for the equipment from other sources. Training (or orientation) will also be provided to those government employees who are in charge of the investigation of these types of crimes.

Inter-institutional coordination workshops will aim to stimulate discussion on the need to promote changes in specific legislation. Awareness-raising activities will also be organized to foster ratification of the Optional Protocol of the Convention on Children's Rights⁴, which specifically addresses the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Inter-institutional coordination workshops will also facilitate exchanges of information and eventually the preparation of proposals for the Second International Conference on the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, which will take place in Yokohama in December 2001.

Component 2: Awareness raising and social mobilization.

Change in attitude needs to be induced to attain widespread social rejection of exploitation, by utilizing the means of communication and educational infrastructure. The project will include a communications campaign, and it will offer training on the topic to communications media professionals (journalists). Training will aim to convert the means of communication and professional communicators/journalists into strategic allies for the prevention of the problem.

Component 3: Creation of a Model for Withdrawal and Protection of Child Victims

In a specific geographical location (Boca Chica), the action program will endeavor to unite the different interested sectors into a local network of institutions through the creation of institutional networks, meetings and information activities. In order to effect prevention of the problem,

⁴ Approved by the General Assembly of United Nations in May 2000.

informational, awareness-raising, and social mobilization activities will be carried out to gain the backing and support of the tourist industry and community leaders. Moreover, informational material will be disseminated about the illegality of using children in commercial sexual exploitation activities and about which agencies are responsible for handling accusations. In order to prevent the problem and to protect children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, key officials will be trained in how to use the existing legal instruments and how to put into practice, on a local basis, an integral, multi-faceted model for the identification, protection, and care/attention of exploited children. The model will be designed in collaboration with the local institutions. These will define, for each agency, their responsibility in relation to the protection of the children.

The protection and withdrawal of 200 children from commercial sexual exploitation will be reached using the following strategy: identification of child victims; confidential registering of each child and their family by a public institution responsible for child protection; socioeconomic evaluation of the family and evaluation of the child (if he/she is victim of family violence, abuse, school situation, medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, etc.). An individual intervention plan will be developed for each child, according to the necessities of this particular child and his/her particular family situation. This plan will be developed by one of the local public institutions, with responsibility in child protection, and with the support of the NGO selected for the implementation of this component of the project. The intervention plans for the child will, in the first instance, aim at stopping the violence (withdraw the child from the violent environment). The interventions can be of diverse kinds, according to the particular situation of the child and his/her family. The interventions may include the provision of: legal aid; vocational training for parents, social assistance (eventually obtained in coordination with the Poverty Reduction Plan), or micro-credits to the family. The interventions may also include: assuring a violent-free family environment; orientation; promoting the sanction of an exploiter or pimp if this person is known; training options; activities needed for school assistance; etc. The project will support the implementation of each of these individual intervention plans. However, the plan will also establish which local public institution has the responsibility to act, because many of the required activities can only be carried out by the national authorities, such as: intervening in cases of family violence; arresting a pimp; separating a child from the parents (in extreme cases where both parents abuse the child physically, psychologically or sexually); etc. The public institutions will also be encouraged to fulfill the general rights of the child (enter the child victim in the formal school system; providing health services) and of his/her family (application of social assistance programs), etc. The role of the NGO is to promote the coordination of the public institutions; help the public institutions to define the best intervention strategies for each child and to monitor that the public institutions fulfill their role in the protection and withdrawal of the child from the violent/exploitative environment.

The model will also develop a system with relevant partners, within the first few months of the project, for the monitoring of the situation of the children found in risk or involved in commercial sexual exploitation. Systematic evaluations of the interventions and the services will also be carried out as part of the model.

When the individual plans are defined and implemented, these will take into account the family situation of the child. 200 siblings of children in commercial sexual exploitation found in risk will also receive support by the project with an individual intervention plan or he/she will benefit from the interventions carried out for the family (economic help; support required for entering school; stopping domestic violence; etc).

Thus, the model will include the following essential components for approaching the problem: early identification of victims, being these Dominicans or of another nationality; protection against commercial sexual exploitation and recovery of the whole system of children's rights;

reduction of the negative consequences of commercial sexual exploitation; following up and tracking the effectiveness of actions aimed at ensuring protection; and the reduction of the negative consequences of commercial sexual exploitation. The model will be applied for all children under 18 years, found in commercial sexual exploitation in the area, without discrimination based on age, nationality, sex or religion. The development of procedures, norms, and tools for each of these essential components will have to be supported. Likewise, the assigning of specific and concrete institutional responsibilities will have to be taken into consideration, in accordance with national laws. These responsibilities and procedures will also specify how the institutions should proceed in cases where the child comes from another region or from another country (such as Haiti).

The model will be systematized, evaluated and publicized in order to foster national policies and so that other regions in the country can also learn from local experiences of the model. The final and external evaluation will indicate the effectiveness of the model, its sustainability and the commitment of the local institutions.

The following matrix summarizes the main elements of the project' s strategy:

Problem	Specific objectives	Main elements of the strategy
Gaps in enforcement of policies and legislation	Strengthen the system for comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in relation to the specific problem of commercial sexual exploitation.	<i>At the national level:</i> Training workshops Inter-institutional coordination workshops Technical assistance (including training) for capacity building and definition of institutional policies. Provision of basic equipment for institution receiving reports and accusations
Permissive attitude of the population towards commercial sexual exploitation	Induce a change in attitudes of Dominicans and of the tourists towards the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	<i>At the national level:</i> Media campaign Training of journalists
High incidence of the problem in tourist areas	Facilitate the establishment in Boca Chica of a sustainable and comprehensive model for the eradication of commercial sexual exploitation of children, which can be reproduced in other areas of the country	<i>Area-based intervention in Boca Chica</i> Social mobilization and networking Dissemination of information Training workshops Technical assistance for the development of procedures and rules and monitoring Media campaign Training of journalists

3.2 Objectives and indicators

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE		To contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Dominican Republic	
<i>Project immediate objective:</i>		At the end of the project, public and private sector institutions will have strengthened their capacity and increased their commitment to prevent and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children	
IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS		MEANS OF VERIFICATION
I.O.1: Strengthen the System for Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents in relation to the specific problem of commercial sexual exploitation.	At the end of the project period, at least 10 principal activities of the National Plan against Commercial sexual exploitation will be under implementation, with the participation of at least 10 public institutions		Meeting with members of the National Commission.
	Changed perception and increased knowledge of public officials		Survey at beginning and end of project
	Number of reports on persons/places involved in commercial sexual exploitation received and under processing by the national authorities (police, judicial investigation)		Register of police and office for the prosecution of sexual crimes
	Number of children and young adolescents with STI interviewed and followed up upon regarding sexual violence		Register in principal health clinics
	Number of children who have been victims of sexual exploitation integrated into the formal school system		Review of files of sexual abused children in public institutions.
	Number of child victims of sexual exploitation who affirm that they have not been abused by the police and that they have received adequate treatment.		Interview with 20 children or adolescents found in situation of sexual exploitation
	Number of child victims protected against commercial sexual exploitation		Review of files of sexual abused children in public institutions.

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IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
I.O. 2 Induce a change in attitudes of Dominicans and of the tourists towards the commercial sexual exploitation of children.	Number of reports on persons/places involved in commercial sexual exploitation presented to national authorities	Register of police and office for the prosecution of sexual crimes
	Major awareness among Dominicans and tourists of the illegality of utilizing children/adolescents for commercial sexual activities	Opinion survey at the end of the project
	Media sector participating in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation	Number and quality of news reports on the problem
I.O. 3 Facilitate the establishment in Boca Chica of a sustainable and comprehensive model for the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of	Number of children withdrawn from and protected against commercial sexual exploitation	Register of public institutions in Boca Chica
	Number of reports on persons/places involved in commercial sexual exploitation received and under processing by the national authorities (policies, judicial investigation)	Register of police and office for the prosecution of sexual crimes
	Number of Dominicans and tourists in Boca Chica with negative opinion of commercial sexual exploitation of children and who are aware of its illegality.	Opinion poll at beginning and end of the project

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IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION
children, which can be reproduced in other areas of the country	Number of tourist establishment participating actively in the prevention and eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation	Observations, interviews and materials produced

3.3 Objectives, outputs and activities

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE		To contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Dominican Republic
PROJECT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:		At the end of the project, public and private sector institutions will have strengthened their capacity and increased their commitment to prevent and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children
IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	OUTPUTS	MAIN ACTIVITIES
<p>I.O.1: Strengthen the System for Comprehensive Protection of Children and Adolescents in relation to the specific problem of commercial sexual exploitation.</p> <p>COMPONENT 1 Institutional strengthening</p>	1.1. The National Commission against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation functioning and National Plan under implementation.	<p>1.1.1 Support the organisation of 10 inter-institutional coordination and training workshops (including meetings for discussion of care models; improvement in legislation; tourist sectors role in prevention of the problem, etc.)</p> <p>1.1.2 Identify a professional to support definition of public institutional policies</p> <p>1.1.3 Provide technical support for the definition of national and local institutional policies and responsibilities to protect children against commercial sexual exploitation and support for the improvement of judicial policies for the sanction of the exploiters.</p>
	1.2. Training plan and materials produced for the training of key public sectors related to protection of child victims and sanction of exploiters.	<p>1.2.1 Identify a professional for the elaboration of a training plan</p> <p>1.2.2 Conduct a survey of key public officials at start and end of project, in regards to their awareness of the problem and of their responsibilities.</p> <p>1.2.3 Prepare training plan for key public institution officials (members of the governing body and other institutions) in collaboration with relevant public institutions and in accordance with national priorities.</p>
	1.3. 300 professionals trained regarding the problem and their responsibilities.	<p>1.3.1 Prepare training materials for key sectors (police, public health and education officials)</p> <p>1.3.2 Conduct training workshops for key public officials.</p>

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE		To contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Dominican Republic
<i>PROJECT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:</i>		At the end of the project, public and private sector institutions will have strengthened their capacity and increased their commitment to prevent and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children
IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	OUTPUTS	MAIN ACTIVITIES
	1.4 Effective mechanism for receiving and processing reports on cases of commercial sexual exploitation.	1.4.1 Select professional to provide technical assistance for the establishment of an effective mechanisms for processing reports 1.4.2 Support the preparation of a Training Plan for Police investigation sector responsible for commercial sexual exploitation. 1.4.3 Carry out training for law enforcement personnel and police investigators of cases of commercial sexual exploitation. 1.4.4 Donate minimum equipment for trained public institutions that investigate reports on commercial sexual exploitation.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE		To contribute to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Dominican Republic
<i>PROJECT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:</i>		At the end of the project, public and private sector institutions will have strengthened their capacity and increased their commitment to prevent and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children
IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	OUTPUTS	MAIN ACTIVITIES
I.O. 2: Induce a change in attitudes of Dominicans and of tourists towards the commercial sexual exploitation of children. COMPONENT 2. <i>Awareness raising and social mobilization</i>	2.1 Training materials produced to raise awareness on the problem and to inform about relevant legislation.	2.1.1 Organize a competition among local artists to obtain photos, paintings and pictures to be used in the communication campaign. 2.1.2 Design communication materials in accordance with specific target groups (tourists, Dominicans, professionals, tourist sector employees, public officials, etc.).
	2.2 Communication campaigns implemented based on plan	2.2.1 Produce a communication plan (kind of materials needed, target groups, means of distribution, etc) for the country. 2.2.2 Implement a communication campaign directed at Dominicans (5 tv-spots, 5 radio spots, 25.000 pamphlets, 5.000 posters, 1 video) 2.2.3 Implement a communication campaign directed at tourists (pamphlets, posters, other information materials) to be distributed in the airport, in hotels, migration offices, travel agencies, etc.
	2.3 100 media professionals trained.	2.3.1 Carry out a small investigation of the treatment of the commercial sexual exploitation problem by the local media. 2.3.2 Elaborate a training manual for the local communication media professionals. 2.3.3. Organize 10 training sessions with the media sector.

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PROJECT IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE:		At the end of the project, public and private sector institutions will have strengthened their capacity and increased their commitment to prevent and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children	
IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE	OUTPUTS	MAIN ACTIVITIES	
<p>I.O. 3 Facilitate the establishment in Boca Chica of a sustainable and comprehensive model for the eradication of the commercial sexual exploitation of children, which can be reproduced in other areas of the country</p> <p>COMPONENT 3</p> <p><i>Creation of Model for withdrawal and</i></p>	3.1 Local network of public and private institutions that work on prevention and eradication of the problem.	<p>3.1.1 Arrange 15 coordination meetings in Boca Chica with 25 participants of public and private institutions regarding the problem and their functions. (protection of children/sanctioning of exploiters.)</p> <p>3.1.2 Identify public institutions with responsibility in relation to the protection of children against abuse and definition of each of their functions in relation to the specific issue of providing care to children affected by commercial sexual exploitation.</p>	
	3.2 Trained professionals of the public and private institutions	3.2.1 Arrange 15 training workshops with 30 public officials each in accordance with their respective responsibilities.	
	3.3 Model for detection, protection and follow-up of child victims functioning in Boca Chica.	<p>3.3.1 Provide technical assistance for the elaboration and implementation of a local care model giving special attention to early detection of children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and first level intervention (establishment of a violence-free environment for the child, i.e. assuring that the exploitation discontinues).</p> <p>3.3.2 Provide equipment for a public office where interviews with the child victims can take place and individual plans of intervention be prepared. This office will also install a monitoring system of the care and services provided to the child victims.</p> <p>3.3.3 Systematize and evaluate whether the care model is functioning well.</p>	

<i>protection of child victims</i>	<p>3.4</p> <p>200 children and adolescents withdrawn from and protected against commercial sexual exploitation in Boca Chica during the implementation of the project.</p>	<p>3.4.1 Provide technical and financial support, in the framework of the model, for the implementation of 200 individual intervention plans: register, diverse kind of support, according to the specific situation of the child (legal aid, economic aid to the family, help to enter school, etc.)</p> <p>3.4.2 Provide financial and technical support to the establishment of training options for older adolescents, victims or at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.</p>
	<p>3.5 Information material on protection and care options produced and distributed among children in the risk of sexual exploitation and their families.</p>	<p>3.5.1 Elaborate information materials with information on public and private institutions that provide care and protection of children.</p> <p>3.5.2 Distribute the material in places where at-risk children are found (schools, discos, parks, beaches, hotels, etc.)</p>
	<p>3.6 Information and awareness raising campaign for tourist sector disseminated.</p>	<p>3.6.1 Elaborate and distribute information materials for tourist sector regarding the problem and the illegality of utilizing children for commercial sexual exploitation.</p> <p>3.6.2 Distribute the materials among receptionists of hotels, hotel owners, restaurants, travel agencies, etc.</p> <p>3.6.2 Arrange information and awareness raising activities (public meetings, seminars, round table discussions) with the tourist sector (travel agencies, hotels, hotel association, others) in Boca Chica.</p> <p>3.6.3 Small opinion survey at beginning and end of the project in Boca Chica directed at Dominicans and tourists.</p>

3.4 Sustainability

All components of the strategy aim to ensure sustainable national efforts for the prevention, protection, and rehabilitation of victims of commercial sexual exploitation. When international assistance has ended, the government institutions will be better trained to fulfill their responsibilities, and their personnel will be more qualified to handle cases of commercial sexual exploitation. In Boca Chica, only if public institutions participate in the project and learn from these experiences will the sustainability of the model be ensured, because only State institutions have the authority to act in cases of violence. NGOs will utilize awareness-raising activities, training, and technical assistance to encourage government institutions to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with national law. Finally, changes in attitude will occur—always over the long term—only by forming a solid alliance with the large means of communication and with the main opinion-makers in the country.

3.5 Management and Coordination

The action program for the elimination of commercial sexual exploitation will be implemented over the course of three years, from October 2001 and September 2004. A National Program Officer (NPO) will be in charge of the project activities. He/she will be supervised by the National Program Manager (NPM) in the Dominican Republic. The NPO will also receive technical assistance from the ILO-IPEC Sub-regional Office in Costa Rica. All attempts will be made to collaborate with the relevant public institutions, NGOs and other international agencies, such as UNICEF, and co-financing of some activities will be sought in order to allow more training workshops and the production of information and educational materials.

The communication and awareness-raising component will be executed by an NGO with substantial experience in preparing information materials on human rights and sexual violence. This NGO has not yet been identified. For the training of journalists and other communication media professionals, an alliance will be sought with their union and with specific institutions to ensure the participation of journalists in workshops and other training activities.

The model for approaching the problem in Boca Chica will be executed by an NGO, most likely by the NGO Family Institute (*Instituto de la Familia-IDEFA*). Nevertheless, because of the nature of the problem, the implementing NGO will have to closely collaborate with local public entities, such as educational centers/schools, health clinics, the police, and a local office of the Governing Body (*Organismo Rector*). During the first months of the project, attempts will be made to secure co-finance by public institutions of services for the attention and care of child victims and their families. The Governing Body will also have an important role in ensuring the effective implementation of the project since many of its member institutions could contribute to the elimination of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

4. Project Implementation Timeline

[illegible]